

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on May 22, 2003, has been received and reviewed.

Claims 1-56 are currently pending and under consideration in the above-referenced application.

Claims 38-51 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Accordingly, these claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 22 has also been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 12, 14, and 21 stand rejected. Claims 1-11, 24-37, and 52-56 have been allowed. In addition, it has been noted that claims 13, 15-20, 22, and 23 recite allowable subject matter. The indication of allowable subject matter in these claims is noted with appreciation.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 12, 14, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,185,210 to Zupancic (hereinafter "Zupancic").

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single reference which qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Independent claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 22, which was indicated to recite allowable subject matter. Therefore, amended independent claim 12 is now allowable over Zupancic. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claim 12 is respectfully requested.

Claims 14 and 21 are both allowable, among other reasons, as depending from claim 12, which is allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

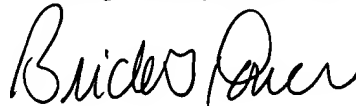
Claims 13, 15-20, 22, and 23 have been objected to as depending from a rejected base claims, but are indicated to contain allowable subject matter. This indication is gratefully acknowledged.

Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 22. Claims 13, 15-20, and 23 continue to depend from amended independent claim 12.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-21, 23, 37, and 52-56 are allowable. An early notice of the allowability of each of these claims is respectfully solicited, as is an indication that the above-referenced application has been passed for issuance. If any issues preventing allowance of the above-referenced application remain which might be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Office is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Brick G. Power
Registration No. 38,581
Attorney for Applicant(s)
TRASKBRITT, PC
P.O. Box 2550
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550
Telephone: 801-532-1922

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